

Amendment No. 1 to HB1970

Montgomery
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1688

House Bill No. 1970*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-1-2__.

(a) This section shall be known as and may be cited as "The Public School Achievement Flexibility Act".

(b)

(1) If a school is determined to be a high performing school or is identified as a reward school by the commissioner pursuant to the rules, regulations and performance standards of the state board of education, then the local board of education may apply to the commissioner for flexibility in operating the school and for a waiver of any state board rule or statute that inhibits or hinders the desired flexibility for the school. The decision as to whether to apply for flexibility of operation shall be solely within the discretion of the local board. The commissioner shall grant the waiver, unless the commissioner finds that the LEA has not adequately demonstrated how the rule or statute inhibits or hinders the school's ability to meet its goals or comply with its mission, in which case the commissioner shall provide, in writing, to the LEA the reasoning for the denial of the waiver.

(2) If the school at any time fails to meet the high performance or reward school standards, its waiver may be revoked by the commissioner.

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(c) A school for which the commissioner has granted flexibility in operation may establish its own educational model and operate in any manner that the local board and the school's management team agree shall sustain and increase student performance. Each school shall be allowed to innovate and experiment and to challenge existing teaching methodologies with the goal of enhancing student performance.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.